

STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

Illinois Bell Telephone Company	:	
and NTS Services Corp.	:	
	:	08-0260
Joint Petition for Approval of Negotiated	:	
Interconnection Agreement dated March 31,	:	
2008 pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §252.	:	

ORDER

By the Commission:

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On April 8, 2008, pursuant to 83 Illinois Administrative Code Part 763, Illinois Bell Telephone Company ("AT&T Illinois") and NTS Services Corp. ("NTS"), filed a joint petition for approval of the Interconnection Agreement under Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. §§ 151 et seq.) ("the Act"). The Agreement was submitted with the petition. A statement in support of the petition was filed along with verifications sworn to by Eddie A. Reed, Jr. on behalf of AT&T Illinois and by Scott M. Luft on behalf of NTS, stating that the facts contained in the petition are true and correct to the best of their knowledge, information, and belief. Pursuant to notice as required by law and the rules and regulations of the Commission, this matter came on for hearing by the duly authorized Administrative Law Judge of the Commission at its offices in Chicago, Illinois, on May 8, 2008. Staff previously filed the Verified Statement of A. Olusanjo Omoniyi of the Commission's Telecommunications Division on April 29, 2008. At the hearing on May 8th, AT&T Illinois, NTS and Staff appeared and agreed that there were no unresolved issues in this proceeding. Mr. Omoniyi's Verified Statement was admitted into evidence and the record was marked "Heard and Taken."

II SECTION 252 OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT

Section 252(a)(1) of the Act allows parties to enter into negotiated agreements regarding requests for interconnection services or network elements. AT&T Illinois and NTS have negotiated such an Agreement and submitted it for approval in this proceeding.

Section 252(e)(1) of the Act provides, in part, that "[a]ny interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation...shall be submitted for approval to the State Commission." This Section further provides that a State Commission to which such an agreement is submitted "shall approve or reject the agreement, with written findings as

to any deficiencies." Section 252(e)(2) provides that the State Commission may only reject the negotiated agreement if it finds that "the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement" or that "the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity."

Section 252(e)(4) provides that the agreement shall be deemed approved if the State Commission fails to act within 90 days after submission by the parties. This provision further states that "(n)o State court shall have jurisdiction to review the action of a State Commission in approving or rejecting an agreement under this section".

Section 252(e)(5) provides for preemption by the Federal Communications Commission if a State Commission fails to carry out its responsibility, and Section 252(e)(6) provides that any party aggrieved by a State Commission's determination on a negotiated agreement may bring an action in the appropriate Federal District Court.

Section 252(h) requires a State Commission to make a copy of each agreement approved under subsection (e) "available for public inspection and copying within 10 days after the agreement or statement is approved." Section 252(i) requires a local exchange carrier to "make available any interconnection, service, or network element provided under an agreement approved under this section to which it is a party to any other requesting telecommunications carrier upon the same terms and conditions as those provided in the agreement."

III. THE AGREEMENT

The Agreement shall be in full force and effect until the "Initial Term" of two years is completed. It establishes various financial and operational terms for a variety of business relationships between AT&T Illinois and NTS. Either Party may terminate this Agreement effective upon the expiration of the Initial Term or effective upon any date after expiration of the Initial Term by providing written notice of termination at least one hundred eighty (180) days in advance of termination.

IV. POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES

No party contended that the Agreement is discriminatory or contrary to the public interest. Staff reviewed the Agreement in the context of the criteria contained in Section 252(e)(2)(A) of the Act and determined that it met the necessary requirements. Under this Section, the Commission may reject an agreement, or any portion thereof, adopted by negotiation under Subsection (a) only if it finds that (i) the agreement, or a portion thereof, discriminates against as telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or (ii) the implementation of such an agreement, or a portion thereof, is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

Mr. Omoniyi stated that the Agreement meets the standards set forth in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity. There are no contested issues in this docket. Staff recommended that the Commission approve the Agreement for the reasons set forth in the Verified Statement of Mr. Omoniyi. Staff also recommended that the Commission require AT&T Illinois to file with the Office of the Chief Clerk, within five (5) days from the date upon which the Agreement is approved, a verified statement that the approved Agreement is the same as the Agreement filed in this Docket with the Verified Petition.

V. FINDINGS AND ORDERING PARAGRAPHS

The Commission, having considered the entire record herein and being fully advised in the premises, is of the opinion and finds that:

- (1) Illinois Bell Telephone Company and NTS Services Corp. are telecommunications carriers as defined in Section 13-202 of the Public Utilities Act;
- (2) Illinois Bell Telephone Company and NTS Services Corp. have entered into an Interconnection Agreement which has been submitted to the Commission for approval under Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996;
- (3) the Commission has jurisdiction of the parties hereto and the subject matter hereof;
- (4) the recitals of fact and conclusions reached in the prefatory portion of this Order are supported by the record and are hereby adopted as findings of fact;
- (5) the Agreement between Illinois Bell Telephone Company and NTS Services Corp. does not discriminate against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the Agreement;
- (6) in order to assure that the Agreement is in the public interest, Illinois Bell Telephone Company should implement the Agreement by filing a verified statement with the Chief Clerk of the Commission, within five (5) days of approval by the Commission, that the approved Agreement is the same as the Agreement filed in this docket with the verified petition. The Chief Clerk shall place the Agreement on the Commission's website under Interconnection Agreements;
- (7) Illinois Bell Telephone Company should also place replacement sheets in its tariffs at the following location: Ill.C.C. No. 16 Section 18;
- (8) the Agreement should be approved as hereinafter set forth;

- (9) approval of the Agreement does not have any precedential effect on any future negotiated agreements or Commission Orders.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Illinois Commerce Commission that the Interconnection Agreement between Illinois Bell Telephone Company and NTS Services Corp. is approved pursuant to Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Illinois Bell Telephone Company shall comply with findings (6) and (7) of this Order within five days of the date of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order is final; it is not subject to the Administrative Review Law.

By Order of the Commission this 21st day of May, 2008.

(SIGNED) CHARLES E. BOX

Chairman